(d) the amount earmarked in this regard, plant-wise;

(e) the expenditure incurred so far and likely to be incurred till completion of the work;

(f) the amount spent on this account during each of the last three years;

(g) whether the Supreme Court has recently passed strictures on the above plants for its failure in implementation of anti-pollution measures; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Basic Telephone Services

339. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Department of Tele-Communication has selected the companies for providing licences for basic Telephone Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Government propose to give assistance for raising financial resources to these companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) the other assistance proposed to be given by the Government to these companies;

(f) the total number of meetings held between these companies and Telecommunication Department so far on this issue; and

(g) the outcome of these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Raising financial resources is entirely the responsibility of the bidders.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The Government will provide assistance in networking and infrastructural matters as per the tender conditions.

(f) A series of meetings on the the issues pertaining to agreement documents were held during 25.7.96 to 7.8.96, 11.9.96, 17.10.96, 18.10.96 and 24.10.96 to 30.10.96.

(g) a large number of issues have been sorted out.

STATEMENT

Name of the Circles	Name of the Bidders	Date of issue of Letter of Intent
Tamil Nadu	M/s Basic Teleservices Ltd.	13.03.96
Delhi	M/s HFCL Bezeq Telecom Ltd.	04.03.96
U.P. (West)	-do-	-do-
Haryana	-do-	-do-
Orissa	-do-	-do-
Andhra Pradesh	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	13.03.96
Bihar	M/s Techno Telecom Ltd.	13.03.96
Punjab	M/s Eassar Commvision	13.03.96
Gujarat	M/s Reliance Telecom	13.03.96
Maharashtra	M/s Hughes Ispat Ltd.	19.03.96

[English]

Harihar Nath Mela

340. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Harihar Nath Mela' at Sonepur district of Saran, Bihar is the largest cattle fair in India;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to promote it as a National Tourist Cattle Fair;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Union Government for promotion of Harihar Nath Mela during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) 'Harihar Nath Mela' at Sonepur is one of the largest fairs.

(b) and (c). The Department of Tourism has identified Sonepur Fair for grant financial assistance. The Fair is being promoted the Indian Tourist Offices in India and abroad.

(d) The amount of financial assistance sanctioned during the last three years is as follows :-

1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Nil	3,03,962.00	3,00,000

[Translation]

Late running of Delhi bound Trains

341. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Delhi bound